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Message Text

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45
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 OPR-02 SY-10 DRC-01

/182 W
---------- 084743
R 072101Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5846
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, HO
SUBJECT: PETROLEUM: TRANSPORT PRICES TO RISE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4584

1. DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRED IN SEVERAL HONDURAN CITIES CONCERNING INCREASED PRICES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT. GOVERNMENT PLAYS POPULAR ROLE OF DECREASING THE AMOUNT BEING CHARGED BY BUS LINE OPERATORS WHILE AT SAME TIME INCREASING FARES 50 PERCENT.

2. A FORTUNATE CONCURRENCE OF EVENTS WAS DERIVED THIS WEEK WHEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT LINES BEGAN ON MONDAY TO CHARGE 10 CENTS FOR URBAN PASSENGERS, DOU*LE THE LEGAL RATE. PASSENGERS WERE BEING REFUSED TRANSPORT BY DRIVERS THROUGH
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THE WEEK. LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE PUBLIC WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IN FRONT OF PUBLIC OFFICES. THE

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GOVERNMENT MEANTIME NEGOTIATED A NEW SUPPLY AND PRICE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COUNTRY'S ONE REFINER, TEXACO, AND CALLED TRANSPORT ASSOCIATIONS IN FOR DISCUSSIONS. AN INCREASE IN URBAN FARES FROM THE PREVIOUS 5 CENTS TO 7.5 CENTS AS INSISTED UPON BY THE GOVERNMENT, EFFECTIVE DEC. 17 AND ACCEPTED BY THE TRANSPORT COMPANIES.

3. THE GOVERNMENT WAS THEREBY ABLE TO RESPOND TO PUBLIC PRESSURE AGAINST THE 10 CENT URBAN RATE BY ANNOUNCING THAT THE RATE WOULD BE ONLY 7.5 CENTS, THU* SOLVING THE PUBLIC PRESSURE PROBLEM.

4. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE WORRIED INTENSELY ABOUT CONSUMER REACTIONS TO NEEDED PRICE INCREASES. IN THIS CASE, NATURAL FORCES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDED THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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